

HSC REGULATION 300M. Home Health Criteria

A. Methodology

1. Standards. The following is the standard to be used in the review of additional or expanded home health agencies. The methodology is based on the following assumptions: 1) More populated areas tend to have a higher population density, 2) Areas with higher population density can be served with fewer staff due to reduced travel time. Thus, it will take fewer staff to serve the same number of patients in a metropolitan area than it would to serve patients in a rural area.
 - a. An area* with up to 30,000 population may be approved for a maximum of two agencies.
 - b. An area with 30,000 to 50,000 population may be approved for a maximum of three agencies.
 - c. An area with 50,000 to 75,000 population may be approved for a maximum of four agencies.
 - d. An area with 75,000 to 110,000 population may be approved for a maximum of five agencies.
 - e. An area with 110,000 to 150,000 population may be approved for a maximum of six agencies.
 - f. An area with 150,000 to 250,000 population may be approved for a maximum of seven agencies.
 - g. An area with 250,00 to 400,000 population may be approved for a maximum of eight agencies.
 - h. An area with 400,000 and over population would be approved for a maximum of one agency per every 50,000 population.

*An area refers to the service area, or geographic area, served or proposed to be served by a Home Health Agency or an applicant.

2. Exception.

Approvals may be granted when the methodology does not show a need if the applicant offers documentation to prove that existing agencies are not meeting the needs of the service area population.

3. Application for a change in licensure category.
An agency with a "B" license that applies for a Permit of Approval to proceed with obtaining an "A" license will have to meet published criteria including the standard of need. Such approval may not exceed the standard of need unless the applicant has provided evidence to support an exception as noted in 2.

B. Unfavorable Review.

1. No application will be approved for a new home health agency or an expanded service area or change in license category if the applicant has suffered a condition level of deficiencies as determined by the Arkansas Department of Health in its last two annual surveys.
2. The Agency may consider an applicant's compliance or enforcement history in determining whether to grant a Permit of Approval.

C. Rural Hospitals

Small rural hospitals that do not have a home health agency may be approved for a home health agency to serve either the county in which the hospital is located or the townships within a twenty-mile radius of the hospital. Small hospitals are defined as short-term acute care hospitals of 50 or fewer licensed beds. Rural counties are defined as counties with a population of 25,000 or less in the last decennial census. Hospitals approved under this rule must have their home health agency licensed no later than twenty-four (24) months from the date of approval.

The rural hospital designation for a POA for a home health agency can be used only once. If the hospital voluntarily or otherwise loses, surrenders or transfers its home health license, the hospital is not eligible at any time in the future for a Home Health POA using the rural hospital designation.